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CLAB FILES 1 Nov 56

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This report supersedes MPU 530 of 29 Jun 56 which  
is cancelled and should be destroyed.

(SOVIET MILITARY INTELLIGENCE)

(Gen P.N. CHEKMAZOV's Group in BERLIN)

(16 Feb - 13 Apr 56)

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Source: A clandestine source of established authenticity.

Foreword: This report is a continuation of MPU Nos. 252 and 270 first issued on 12 and 19 Mar 56, reissued on 26 Oct 56. It provides further details of the activities of Gen Petr Nikiforovich CHEKMAZOV, who heads a GSFG Intelligence Detachment in BERLIN, and his relations with Gen Andrei Egorovich CHECHENTSEV, Chief, Intelligence Directorate, HQ, GSFG.

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Film on balloons

1. On 16/18 Feb 56 Gen P.N. CHEKMAZOV mentioned to Gen A.E. CHECHENTSEV that he had a film on "these same balloons".

2. On 20/22 Feb 56 Gen CHEKMAZOV mentioned to Col YULUSOV, Intelligence Directorate, HQ, GSFG, that he wanted Col Gen A.P. TARASOV, CoS, HQ, GSFG, to see "this film on the aviation balloons." The film itself was short - some 120 metres - and took up to half an hour to run through; there was a commentary to it. CHEKMAZOV explained that he could let TARASOV have the film for only a short time, as he had to send it on, further, "there" (presumably MOSCOW). CHEKMAZOV then added that there had been a comment that day on this subject in "Pravda".

Films

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3. On 22 Mar 56 CHEKMAZOV reported to CHECHENTSEV that he had two sound films in English. One showed training in various countries, and the other the history of the organisational structure of NATO and the visits of EISENHOWER to various countries. The second one was in the nature of a propaganda film.

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Request for Radio Service

4. On 19 Mar 56 and again on the 22nd March, Gen CHEKMAZOV spoke to Gen CHECHENTSEV about a request concerning a radio service which some people (unstated) wanted set up, and which CHEKMAZOV had agreed to propose to the CinC. He remarked that "your regiments (i.e., CHECHENTSEV's) are there", implying that they could probably help to set up or implement the link. The radio service required was "of the 11th type" (po linii odinadtsatogo) and CHEKMAZOV presumed that the major problem would be the technical difficulties involved. CHECHENTSEV agreed to support the proposal, adding that the technical side was important as the proposed set-up was such a complicated one. In his time, "Nikolai Mikhailovich" (snu) had already tried to bring this question up, but nothing came of it, and then "they closed down". There was a chance, however, that they might be lucky on the second attempt. CHEKMAZOV added that ?STOCK or ?STOPH (see comment c) might also apply to see the CinC, since he (STOCK or STOPH) was principally concerned with the plan.

Comment:

- a) "The 11th" may refer to an 11th Radio Network or to an 11th organisation or directorate, or to the function of such organisation or directorate.
- b) The Regiments described as "CHECHENTSEV's" may refer to regiments under the direct supervision of CHECHENTSEV, such as the 28th and 49th Special Designation Radio Regiments. These regiments which, according to other sources, formerly had their Hq at STAHDSDORF, and are now at TORGAU and GERA respectively, are subordinate to the Intelligence Directorate, GSFG. On the other hand, they may refer to any GSFG Signals Regiments, since CHECHENTSEV is in Hq, GSFG.
- c) It is impossible to make out for certain whether the person referred to by Gen CHEKMAZOV as being principally concerned with the plan was STOCK or STOPH. Gen Willi STOPH is DDR Minister for Defence, and Col STOCK, Chief of the DDR Border Police Hq at PAETZ.
- d) The cryptic reference to the closing down, evidently of an office or organisation, might possibly refer to the reduction to the status of a department of the former Frontier Control Dte. This would explain the interest in the matter of Col STOCK, if it was he and not Gen STOPH who was, in fact, concerned. It is not known who Nikolai Mikhailovich was.

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Coverage of Western military exercises

5. In the same conversation quoted in para 3 above, Gen CHECHENTSEV asked CHEKMAZOV whether he had got anything yet about these - "teeth, - or claws". CHEKMAZOV replied, "What, Bear's? No, nothing yet." One (man) had arrived but he had nothing, so the results so far were completely negative.

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Comment:

The significance of "Bear's claws" (po kogtyam-po medvedyu) is not known, but it may refer to Intelligence Directorate coverage of the Western military exercises which apparently are the subject of paras 6 and 7 below.

6. Later, on 20 Mar 56, YULUSOV also asked CHEKMAZOV about the "claws". CHEKMAZOV replied that they had absolutely nothing and that there had been nothing in the press. They had sent someone "there" but had got nothing. It was, he added, a "staff" (affair). YULUSOV expressed disappointment at this negative result, saying that they had pinned great hopes on CHEKMAZOV. CHEKMAZOV replied that nothing could be done; failures had to occur at times, and he had in fact had a complete failure. YULUSOV replied that they also had done poorly that time, worse than before. In the meantime they had to make fresh preparations, and the brief must be set out more clearly. They would make some rearrangement; but would not entrust it to one person alone, but to more.

7. In a conversation on 12/13 Apr 56, Gen CHECHENTSEV told Col KONOVALOV of CHEKMAZOV's group that something was due to take place on the 17th, that they were all awaiting the results of this, and that all eyes were fixed on it.

Gen CHEKMAZOV's "Chief"

8. Gen CHEKMAZOV appears to have a "chief" other than Gen CHECHENTSEV. On 22 Feb 56 CHEKMAZOV asked Col YULUSOV whether he had spoken to his (CHEKMAZOV's) chief at the Red Army Day reception, and what sort of impression he had of him. From the conversation it appeared that this "chief" was visiting from MOSCOW. CHEKMAZOV described him as "shrewd" and "experienced".

9. On an earlier occasion, on 16/18 Feb 56, CHEKMAZOV, speaking to CHECHENTSEV about tickets for the same Red Army Day reception, had mentioned his "chief", to whom he gave the names "Karl Karlovich".

Gen CHEKMAZOV's visit to MOSCOW

10. CHEKMAZOV mentioned to Col YULUSOV on 6 Mar 56 that he had written to MOSCOW about a visit which he wished to make for three days. YULUSOV later reported that permission for this visit had been given. CHEKMAZOV was apparently taking his wife with him; she was to remain in the USSR for a month and would return to Germany later.

11. On 20 Mar 56 Gen CHEKMAZOV returned from MOSCOW and reported to YULUSOV that everything was "normal" there.

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